MARVEL

154

GRANT MORRISON
MARC SILVESTRI

NEW X-MEN®

HERE COMES TOMORROW CONCLUSION

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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom, Homo superior.

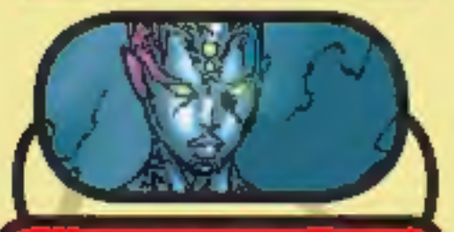
Stan Lee presents...

NEW X-MEN®

"RESCUE AND EMERGENCY"
HERE COMES TOMORROW conclusion

TOM SKYLARK

ROVER



E.V.A.

WOLVERINE

CASSANDRA NOVA

BEAK

THREE-IN-ONE

THE BEAST

PREVIOUSLY

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The time is 150 years in the future.

The Earth is a mere shadow of its former self. Homo sapiens as a species has nearly vanished, and most traces of human civilization have been eradicated. The familiar human nations have been replaced by mutant territories such as Megamerica, Panafrika, Intereuropa and Extralia. International conflict has given way to species warfare, as various emerging species – including mutants – vie for dominance of the biosphere.

On a haunted isle called TRANSATLANTIS lives and works THE BEAST, a sinister genetic scientist whose armies of genetically-modified CRAWLERS have overrun what's left of the habitable world. The Beast's objective: to make the world over in a single genetic image, and destroy everything else.

Opposing this great evil are the X-MEN, now led by Professor Xavier's twin sister, CASSANDRA NOVA. Of the original team only WOLVERINE remains, now joined by the robotic construct E.V.A., a new BEAK, and the mysterious THREE-IN-ONE. Also along for the ride are a young human named TOM SKYLARK and his partner, the giant Sentinel ROVER.

Now the unthinkable has happened: the Beast has captured the PHOENIX EGG, an object containing unspeakable power. Knowing that the limitless power of the Phoenix in the hands of the Beast will mean the end of the world as they know it, the X-Men embark on a mission to attack Transatlantis, a final adventure to determine the fate of the world. But the Phoenix Egg has already hatched...and the creature within is there to meet them.

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3 BILLION YEARS AGO...

The cataclysmic primal screams of the newborn Earth *woke* us.

And we knew ourselves as *one mind.*

And we were *"first genome." RNA. DNA.*

Perfectly-adapted form.

The pinnacle of evolution.

Self-aware, immortal.

Sublime.

We were *"dominant species."*

When carbon slime colonies and bacterial mats gorged themselves on abundant hydrogen and were idiot emperors of the dawnworld, *we* hid and we thrived in the undergrowth of tangled *DNA.*

We bartered our genetic innovations with increasingly more ***organized*** lifeforms--plants, insects, lizards, mammals.

We were *"dominant species".*

Primordial sequence.

Alpha gene.

Sublime.

Even *humanity*, the *"crown of creation,"* had no defense against us... he imagined he ruled this world.

But we lived *inside* him... invisible, unchallenged, unrecognized...until the birth of the *mutant* children.

Until *Homo superior.*

A *new* lifeform, born in a marvelous collision of radiant atoms and broken chromosomes.

These mutations, with their potential to breed strong, *invulnerable* offspring, were the first *real threat* to our eternal dominion.

Are you *listening* to this, Apollyon?

GGGNNN

You promised an *end* to my pain! You said I would be made *whole!*

We had to *infect* them with *aggression,* had to *divert* their great energies into mindless *conflict.*

Locked in perpetual struggle, they could never *breed,* their population could never *grow* to threaten us with extinction.

Great Beast, I've served for *so long* as your swift messenger. I've endured *agonies* of mind and body...

...I've longed to take off this spacesuit and walk, naked and free, on *perfected* soil.

Let me taste the *Phoenix blood* and *feel* again, master.

The supermen *fight* and die and *return* in a meaningless shadowplay because *we* make them do it.

Patience, Apollyon.

Our eugenic *Eden* is almost born, when all will be as *we* will it.

The precious blood of the *Phoenix.*

The *ultimate* mutation.

Telekinetic *godhood*--in a *jar*, at last.

But you promised it was for *me*, not for *you!*

Me!

You *promised!*

I lied, Apollyon! You will never be whole!

The power is mine alone! One rule!

Survival of the--

HRRRRRAAAAUUUU!

MID-ATLANTIC DRIFT

The kindly Beast is trying to *help* you pass with dignity.

Extinction is part of the cycle of natural growth and death.

New life will come.

Gimme a break with this hoo-ha, willya, Jeannie?

Hank was a *doctor*...does *"destroy all intelligent life"* sound like the sort of idea he'd come up with?

The Beast *lied* to ya, darlin'--that ain't *Henry McCoy*, it's just what's left of his *body*.

Hmm.

Strange. You seem representative of a potentially *viable* species...

Nice of ya ta notice.

Yer boss has been trying to stop mutants *spreading* since we started...he was behind all the *U-Men* and *Super-Sentinels* and nano-viruses and drugs.

Look into my *mind*, Jeannie! I *dare* ya!

X-Men?

The Beast told me *X-Men* were lethal variant lifeforms, spreading like...like a genetic *sickness* across the planet... but...

...I came to *fix* something that was *dying*, Logan.

Tom Skylark!

The Phoenix is assuming a psychic attack posture.

Big deal.

But we have to be ready!

For *what?*

It's all *over*, E.V.A.

Rover saw us together and...and he thought I was all set to *dump* him for the latest model and it's all...

Jean, these kids don't know what's *what*, but... you and me, *we've* seen it all before.

You ain't here as *anybody's* servant...yer the *Phoenix*.

Yer an A-grade telekinetic talent tapped into a *cosmic power source*.

...nobody knows what we've *been through*, him and me.

I'm *nothing* without him.

The game's up.

But yer still Jean Grey-Summers!

You have such a tricky, intricate mind. Don't...

Scott?

Logan?

Steady, Martha, dear.

My Shi'ar files tell me the Phoenix consciousness accesses its human host via the so-called *Crown Chakra* port at the top of the skull.

I saw all this *coming,* you know.

We're all going to *die,* but it's for a *good cause*...and if I've learned anything at the *Xavier Institute*...

...it's that a good cause *always* gives meaning to a bad death.

Unplug the Crown.

Tuuuh!

AKK

I gotcha, darlin'.

Luhg

Luh-Logan?

I was...in... in...this huge place...how long?

Jeannie.

Shh

150 years since we last saw your face.

150?

Oh, no.

What...what happened?

JEAN GREY-SUMMERS
SHE WILL RISE AGAIN

Magneto *killed* ya, under orders he never understood.

Scott lost heart and lost his chance.

Hank tried his *best.*

And it all *fell apart,* like it always does.

Hank tried *"Kick"* one night.

That was *long* before anyone realized Hypercortisone-D was *Sublime's* new *aerosol* form.

And by that time Hank was *gone,* replaced by smart bacteria and global disease.

Humanity *died.*

And we all went to *war* in the ruins.

It's been a *heck* of a time.

I *love* being in your *mind*, Martha... everything's so colorful and exciting in the cartoon world of *No-Girl*.

Your brains, my beauty...we've never really been appreciated in that *"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"* way, have we?

Oh, dear.

Not like this.

XAVIER INSTITUTE

It's all going *dark*... everyone *screaming*...

...Cerebra is *afraid*.

Something's eating at her *mind*.

Well...

Stepford Cuckoos// Version01/03/04///

...I'll tell you *what*...

Weapon XIV/// Consciousness self-destruct sequence///

It's not having *us* for dessert.

Commencing

Triplets rule!

I *drowned* the last whale.

I can do *anything* now.

That so, Beast?

Think you can *shut your mouth* and hold *still* while I spread your brains out like jelly-on-rye?

WOO HOOO!

KRAAK'UR!

HAK-TF

Here is evolution's *end.*

All life is mine. "*All creatures great and small.*"

Mine.

He's *gigantic!*

Come on, mate, come *on!* I don't care *how* many fathoms down you're sinking, I know you can *hear* me!

You get up here right now, Rover!

'Cause if you don't, I'm as dead as the *rest* of 'em!

Come on, you!

What's it all *about?*

Why does there always have to be *people* like you?!

Stop all the mad bleedin' chat and give me a straight answer!

I will build my future on your *bones.*

DESTROY!

HAALURP

All matter responds to *my* slightest whim.

My new senses.

AAHH!

GARRAAUAR

There! Can you feel these ***thoughts*** we make entering your body, ***rewriting*** it? Bio-software! Command execute!

Generate ***trash codes!***

Now give me an uncontrolled ***explosion*** of useless body parts. ***Nnaaaauurr*** an unstoppable cancer storm!

Weapon Thirteen--I ***created*** you once...

...I ***unmake*** you now.

uffff

mmff

wakk

hff

Tito!

Hold on, bub! Hold on!

...ffff ...failed.

I *knew* I'd mess up... Grandad's gonna be laffin' down at me...

...never.. never could live up... to a hero like that... legacy like that..

Kid, yer about three feet *taller* than yer Grandad.

If ya only knew.

Just let yourself go... ya did good.

Fly.

Cuz you do *not* wanna be around for what's *comin'* down.

STITCH THAT, BUB!

Logan.

Don't let Sublime contaminate you!

Don't fight!

ASSAULT!

Did you think you would live *forever*, little speck?

I can *turn off* your healing gene.

Like so.

=HUDD=

nngh

=wuff=

No-Girl!

Help... help me out here...

It's all right now, Logan.

We're going to the white hot room.

With your talents and an endless army of Crawlers, we will set our mark on all of *creation!*

We will remake *God* in our image!

And sit on thrones *high* above the universe...

Really?

Actually, what's happening here is a coordinated disinfection.

My friends were only keeping you busy.

Be *calm* now.

Your time has *come.*

Accept the *judgment* of the Phoenix.

Did you think *you* would live forever, little speck?

Show yourself, Sublime.

Surgery complete?

Jean...

Oh, Jean I feel *awful.*

I...I lied about that *cure.*

I *tried* to save the human genome, but...

...but there was no one *left* to run the school... Jean I...I lost it...

Oh, Jean, I'm so glad to *see* you again...

I can't believe I managed to live so long with my asthma.

The Beast is dead.

All is *perfected!*

Perfected

AAAAAAAAAAAA

Ffzzzzz-annnttom-mzzzk????

Izzi

That

U

?

Urrr

What a bloody *smash-up* this turned out to be.

I thought/ heard I/ thought/

Heard/I thought

I 'm sorry about what I said, E.V.A....I... I can make it better...

...I'm good with machines, I am...

Peace at last.

Had to be sumthin' nuts like this.

...been in here before..

. that echo...

echo...

echo...

echo. .

Mind if I...

...mind if I hand over to *you* now, darlin'?

Some kind of intelligent bacterial colony gone rogue... I had to amputate the whole future.

Phoenv////fx disinf////ection suc///cessf///ul

Now what?

///this is now

Is this the future?

You los///t con////centration//// became emot///onally/// engaged///

Shock///almost k///illed it

Will//// patient die unless///internal heart dam////age repa///red

But it didn't deserve to end like that!

My friends don't deserve that

No! Tur///n ar////ound

No erv///d y///et.

Th///ere!

Tu///rn!

Here before/// always///

///Hosp//// tal///white h////at

Now he////al wound///make bet////ter future grow///quick///

Oh

Right

Lost my

concentration

in there

Hea///rt g////ot stu///ck

///Tur////n

Telekin////etic control of all th////ose ato////ms at on////ce is////n't as////easi////y as it s////ound////s in tr////ain////ing

////not even for a White Ph////oenix of the Crow////n

Qu////ick//// now////

////It lost its parents when univ////y br////oke out a////cros////s the meg////asys////tems.

Did I have to fix something that was dying?

What is it?

A b////adly wound//ed orphan un//////iverse

Ph////oenix////// work

But... ...but what's that supposed to mean?

Th////at H////enry's hear////t is brok////en//// that Scott suc////cumbs to lone////liness and doubt//// that all is lost unless///

Every diamond has its flaw.

Gus was a good dog.

Are these words from the future?

"If you want it to grow a new future to replace the one you just cut away...

...you have to water it with your heart's blood," they said, in that way they've got.

And they said I was to tell you to hurry...

Have we met?

Hundreds of times.

If it was me, I'd just let it die...

"No, it's just...

"He lives, Scott.

...Live."

NOW...

It must be getting rather *tedious*, Scott dear.

These *reruns* of your grief.

Not funny.

Yes it is, and you *know* it.

No. Magneto... Xorn...this last year.

My eyes were *opened*, Emma...something *about* us X-Men makes them want to kill us and nothing we do makes a *difference*.

Difference to *what*? To *people*? For God's sake, Scott, who cares about *them*?

I want to reopen the *school*.

It's *done*, Emma. Even *Professor X* has retired.

The costumes, the heroics...*done*.

But you and I, together.

Think of what marvelous *teachers* we could be to a *new* generation of gifted bloody brats.

We could inspire them to *greatness!*

And Scott... imagine what we could do for one another.

Don't you want to inherit the Earth?

I...

RESCUE...AND EMERGENCY

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X-PRESSIONS

Dear New X-Team,

First off, I must say I'm quite pleased with the return of the letters page. I thought it had gone the way of Genosha. Second, I must congratulate you all

for a stellar issue. Issue #151 has to be, in my opinion, one of the better issues of an already fantastic run.

This issue captures perfectly, in word, in art, in air and feel, the bleak and hopeless future we find our heroes caught in. And I did enjoy seeing touches of our time here and there, the Taj Mahjal and the Eiffel Tower in the ruins of Manhattan and the Cerebra "Cathedral", among others. And just as things build to mind-boggling levels, we cut to Scott and Emma at Jean's grave. "She will rise again." That whole scene was a nice, if heart-breaking touch.

As for the Beast, well, it is rather shocking to see him as the baddie here. Shocking, but not entirely incomprehensible. Disillusionment can do much to change a person; I feel we're seeing the end result of its effects on the Beast. Perhaps he feels that, despite his best efforts, the world has still fallen, and only by actively changing it, with his science, can he bring order to chaos. Just a thought. I suppose we shall see by the end of the arc.

And Headmistress Cassandra Nova Xavier? Well. I can't wait for the explanation for that.

Morrison, as usual, hits us with his trademark one-liners. "Well. If it ain't Bad News Cassie" is bound to become one of my favorites. And the Beast's Revelations-flavored monologue and his "Mark of the Beast" line were particularly inspired. I think I shall miss lines like this the most when Morrison leaves.

It helps that we're getting stellar art from Silvestri. I wasn't around for his first X-run, but if what I see here is anything to go on, he certainly deserves all the acclaim he's getting.

Ajeet Panemanglor
Manila, Philippines

Hopefully this final issue of "Here Comes Tomorrow" was as satisfying as the first one for you, Ajeet! And three cheers for your spot-on remarks about Beast! It was indeed disillusionment, as well as science, that made him what he became – though perhaps not quite in the way you anticipated. As for Cassandra, we hope you can live with a little bit of mystery there, though you'll note it is strongly suggested that Cassie isn't quite who she seems to be...

Dear New X-Men,

I liked NEW X-MEN #152. But I have a question: if the Marvel characters can survive for at least 150 years, how come we never saw them in 2099, Bishop's time, or Cable's time? Also, who was that Irish whale under Apolloyon at the beginning? I liked Apollyon. Are there any more Proud People? Why is Beast evil? Is this the same Beak?

Reuben DeBord

Whoa, whoa, whoa, Reuben, slow down! We're not quick enough to keep up with all these questions. Hopefully the conclusion of "Here Comes Tomorrow" has answered most of them, but we'll give you a little summary nonetheless: 1) You didn't see characters from this story in Cable's and Bishop's future timelines because they are different timelines -- parallel universes, if you will. 2) It was a Scottish whale, not an Irish whale, thank you very much. And although we didn't learn much about the origin of Mer-max in Grant's story, this may not be the last time you see him. 3) Ditto for the Proud People, though they may now only be a glimmer in the Phoenix's eye along with the rest of this timeline. 4) Beast was infected by the bacterial agent known as Sublime. 5) Nope, this is Tito, Barnell Bohusk's grandson.

We think that covers it...phew...

Dear X-Office,

Are you nuts? I can't believe you're actually going through with Morrison and Austen's plans to separate Scott and Jean, just so Scott and Emma can be "a couple." This doesn't even make sense! Why would Scott decide to "go out" with Emma in the first place? She's been nothing but trouble for the X-Men in the past, and I can't see Scott actually falling for her tricks; he's a much smarter man than that.

If you're doing this just to have Jean and Logan together, again, I don't see any good coming from it.

Besides, this goes against what Morrison's been saying about Scott in his run: "It's Jean or nothing." In #150, it seems as if Scott was going to tell Emma his decision, and that decision was going to be "It's over, Emma, I'm with Jean." In #151, again, Scott walks away from Emma (not to mention he wasn't happy that she was making fun of a "dead" Jean Grey-Summers).

The only way I can see Scott and Emma together (only for a while, destiny will bring Jean and Scott back as a couple) is if Jean stays "dead" for a couple years.

Thanks for listening.

Just another Scott and Jean fan

We understand how you're feeling – many of us grew up with Jean and Scott as THE definitive comic book couple! But we hope that after you've read the issue you're holding now, you'll understand Grant's master plan: it's Jean herself who chooses for Scott to be with Emma, in order to prevent the horrible events of "Here Comes Tomorrow" from happening. No, the saga of Jean and Scott is definitely not over, but it has certainly gained a new complication.

And who's to say Emma Frost hasn't changed? She's been a loyal and valuable member of the X-Men for quite a while now. Give the girl a chance!

That's it for "Here Comes Tomorrow," so tune in next month for the fallout! Jean Grey is dead, Magneto is dead and the X-Mansion – not to mention New York City – are in ruins! How will the remaining X-Men deal with

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NEXT ISSUE:
"Bright New Mourning" Part 1 of 2!

GREY FOX 誠